

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 5, 7, 11-13, 15-17, 19, 21, 24, 26 and 30 are amended and claim 7 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, independent claims 1 and 21 are amended to include features of dependent claim 7 (and to minimize the number of issues). All other amendments are merely for clarity. Thus, no new issues are raised. Entry is thus proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent 3,409,889 to Graham. The Office Action also rejects claims 3-19 and 23-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Graham in view of U.S. Patent 6,987,981 to Kuo. The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites sending a first initial synchronization message by a first device to a second device, and sending a second initial synchronization message by the second device to the first device at substantially the same time as the sending of the first initial synchronization message and before the first synchronization message is received at the second device. Independent claim 1 also recites that the first initial synchronization message and the second initial synchronization message are both RESET PDUs. Still further, independent claim

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1 recites synchronizing the first device and the second device by compensating for synchronization errors when the first device and the second device both initiate said initial synchronizing messages at substantially the same time.

The applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. More specifically, Graham relates to air traffic control communications. Graham does not teach or suggest that the first and second initial synchronization messages are both RESET PDUs. Furthermore, the technology involved in Graham significantly differs from RESET PDUs such that there is no suggestion to modify Graham so as to include RESET PDUs. Thus, Graham does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1.

Additionally, Graham also does not relate to the first device and the second device initiate the initial synchronization messages at substantially the same time. The Office Action references Graham's FIG. 3. However, FIG. 3 clearly relates to pulses being in an unsynchronized condition. Therefore, this does not suggest to compensate to synchronization errors when the first and second devices both initiate the initial synchronization messages at substantially the same time. Applicant further submits that Graham's FIG. 2 shows pulses in a synchronized condition. However, there is no suggestion of compensating for synchronization errors when the first device and the second device both initiate the initial synchronization messages at substantially the same time.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Graham does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. Furthermore, there is no suggestion to modify Graham based on Kuo. That is, when discussing features relating to dependent claim 7, the Office Action references

Kuo's stage 48 as allegedly corresponding to the claimed first and second initial synchronization messages both being RESET PDUs. However, Kuo's FIG. 3 (and the remaining figures) clearly do not relate to a first and a second initial synchronization message both being RESET PDUs where both the synchronization messages are initiated at substantially the same time. For at least these reasons, Kuo does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 1 missing from Graham. Furthermore, even if combined, Kuo and Graham do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 21 recites a first device to send a first initial synchronization message, and a second device to send a second initial synchronization message to the first device at substantially the same time as the sending of the first initial synchronization message and before the first synchronization message is received at the second device. Independent claim 21 also recites the first initial synchronization message is a RESET PDU and the second initial synchronization message is a RESET PDU. Still further, independent claim 21 recites that the first device and the second device each include means for compensating for synchronization errors during synchronization of the first device and the second device when the first device and the second device both initiate said synchronizing at substantially the same time.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 21. Thus, independent claim 21 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 22 recites independently determining at both of the two RLC peer entities whether or not a RLC reset is required between the two RLC peer entities, and

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independently initiating, at substantially the same time, a RLC reset procedure at each of the two RLC peer entities if it is determined by each of the two RLC peer entities that a RLC reset is required. Still further, independent claim 22 recites synchronizing the two RLC peer entities without a synchronization failure.

The applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 22. More specifically, the Office Action (on page 3) states that independent claim 22 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1. However, independent claim 22 and independent claim 1 contain different features. The Office Action does not recognize these differences.

Graham does not teach or suggest a RLC reset procedure at each of two RLC peer entities. Furthermore, Graham has no teaching or suggestion for initiating an RLC reset procedure at substantially a same time (for each of the two RLC peer entities). Even further, Graham does not teach or suggest independently initiating, at substantially a same time, a RLC reset procedure at each of the two RLC peer entities and synchronizing the two RLC peer entities as recited in independent claim 22. Kuo does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 22 missing from Graham. Thus, independent claim 22 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 21 and 22 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

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For example, dependent claim 26 recites transmitting from a first RLC peer entity of the two RLC entities a first RESET PDU with a first RLC side first HFN, and transmitting from a second RLC peer entity, a second RESET PDU with a second RLC side second HFN before receiving the first RESET PDU.

The Office Action states that claim 26 is rejected for the same reasons as dependent claim 11. When discussing dependent claim 11, the Office Action references Kuo's FIG. 4, stages 68, 72 and 82. However, these stages of FIG. 4 do not teach or suggest the claimed first RESET PDU and second RESET PDU as recited in dependent claim 26. Thus, the applied references do not teach or suggest all the features of dependent claim 26. Dependent claim 26 defines patentable subject matter at least for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-30 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

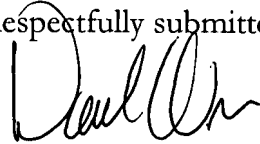
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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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